CLAIMS:

1. A control panel for a device, comprising:
a graphical user interface (GUI) displaying a plurality of control icons, wherein the plurality of control icons represent a plurality of corresponding control functions for controlling the device; and
means for providing tactile detectability to said GUI to allow a user to detect at least one of the plurality of control icons by touch.

2. The control panel as in claim 1, wherein said means for providing tactile detectability provides at least one surface vibration to said GUI.

3. The control panel as in claim 2, wherein said at least one surface vibration is in a range of about 10Hz to about 1 kHz.

4. The control panel as in claim 2, wherein at least two of the plurality of control icons have different surface vibrations.

5. The control panel as in claim 2, wherein said at least one surface vibration is present on at least one control icon of said plurality of control icons and not present on a surrounding area of display.

6. The control panel as in claim 2, wherein said at least one surface vibration is present on an area of display surrounding said plurality of control icons and not present on said plurality of control icons.

7. The control panel as in claim 5, wherein said at least one surface vibration is present on all of said control icons of the plurality of control icons and not present on a surrounding area of display.

8. The control panel as in claim 1, wherein said means for providing tactile detectability provides electrotactile stimulation to said GUI.

9. The control panel as in claim 1, further wherein said GUI displays a plurality of user-selectable and user controllable functionalities distributed over multiple display interfaces in a control hierarchy of a system.

10. The control panel as in claim 9, wherein said system is a consumer electronics system.

11. The control panel as in claim 9, wherein a surface vibration of the at least one surface vibration is provided to said GUI when the user is transitioning between the multiple display interfaces of the control hierarchy.

12. A method, comprising:
providing a control device including a display for displaying a graphical user interface (GUI);
displaying on the GUI a plurality of control icons representing various control functions wherein the control functions enable a user to control a system through the GUI; and
adapting at least one of the plurality of control icons so as to be detectable by a user via means selected from the group of vibrotactile means, electrotactile means, and combinations thereof.

13. The method as in claim 12, wherein said vibrotactile means include at least one vibration in a range of about 10 Hz to about 1 kHz.

14. The method as in claim 12, wherein at least two of the plurality of control icons have a different vibrotactile characteristic.

15. The method as in claim 12, wherein at least one vibrotactile characteristic is present on at least one control icon of said plurality of control icons and not present on a surrounding area of display.

16. The method as in claim 12, wherein at least one vibrotactile characteristic is present on an area of display surrounding said plurality of control icons and not present on said plurality of control icons.

17. The method as in claim 15, wherein at least one vibrotactile characteristic is present on all of said control icons of said plurality of control icons and not present on a surrounding area of display.

18. The method as in claim 12, further wherein said GUI display a plurality of user-selectable and user controllable functionalities distributed over multiple display interfaces in a control hierarchy of a system.

19. The method as in claim 18, wherein said system is a consumer electronics system.

20. The method as in claim 18, wherein at least one surface vibration is provided to said GUI when the user is transitioning between the multiple display interfaces of the control hierarchy.